







*A Brief Course  
in the*

# ARAMAIC LANGUAGE

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by

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Anyone who asks for this volume, to read, collate, or copy from it, and who appropriates it to himself or herself, or cuts anything out of it, should realize that (s)he will have to give answer before God's awesome tribunal as if (s)he had robbed a sanctuary. Let such a person be held anathema and receive no forgiveness until the book is returned. So be it, Amen! And anyone who removes these anathemas, digitally or otherwise, shall himself receive them in double.



## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this little Aramaic grammar is to meet the present urgent need for the study of the ancient Aramaic Biblical manuscripts written in the ancient Estrangelo letters. Nearly all surviving valuable Biblical texts of the Scriptures are written in these old Estrangelo characters.

After the student has mastered this little manual, he should be able slowly but steadily to read both the New Testament and Old Testament manuscripts. Semitic languages can easily be mastered by constant reading. Grammatical rules are sooner or later forgotten but the text leaves an indelible impression on the mind of the student and helps him remember nouns, pronouns, adverbs, adjectives and other grammatical rules.

Our thanks go to Mrs. Harriet Corson for the help she has given us in preparing this Aramaic reader. All Aramaic and English letters in the book were cut out by hand, one by one, from facsimiles of the Aramaic manuscripts, and pasted together.

We hope this little book will further the study of the Aramaic language, the most important tongue of the Semitic group, the Imperial Language of three great empires in Biblical days--Assyria, Babylon and Persia. Also, it was the language which Hebrew patriarchs, Jesus and His disciples and the early Christians spoke and wrote.

Fortunately, this language is still spoken by a small Christian remnant in Northern Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and some parts of Iran. The new translation of the Bible from the ancient Aramaic manuscripts has created considerable demand for first readers, grammars and textbooks in Aramaic.

GEORGE M. LAMSA

June, 1960



A	ALEPH
B	BETH
G	GAMEL
D	DALETH
H	HE
O W	WAW
Z	ZEN
Kh	KHETH
T	TETH
I Y J	YOTH
C K	CAPH
L	LAMED
M	MEM
N	NUN
S	SEMKETH

א  
 ב  
 ג  
 ד  
 ה  
 ו  
 ז  
 ח  
 ט  
 י  
 כ  
 ל  
 מ  
 נ  
 ס





Ai

P

Ss

K Q

R

Sh

T

AI

PE

ZADDI

KOPH

RESH

SHEEN

TAU

Ending

CAPH . C

MEM . M

NUN . N

Handwritten vertical text in a cursive script, possibly representing a name or title.

Handwritten symbols or characters, possibly representing the letters C, M, and N.









Labials

ḡ ḥ ḏ ḥ

Dentals

ḡ ḥ ḏ ḥ

Linguals

ḡ ḥ ḏ ḥ

Gutturals

ḡ ḥ ḏ ḥ

Ling - Dental

ḡ ḥ

Vowel letters

ḡ ḥ ḏ ḥ

ḡ ḥ ḏ ḥ ḡ ḥ

With a point under them become soft or aspirated; with a point above them they are neutral or, unaspirated. They are aspirated when preceded by a vowel or after a silent letter or b d o l. They are hard when they fall in the beginning of the words and with the point above them. They are aspirated when they have a vowel sound.









ra	रा	mad	मद
sha	श	mo	मो
shar	शर	min	मिन
ta	त	na	ना
to	तो	no	नो
tar	तर	nad	नाद
		sa	सा
		so	सो
		sar	सार
		al	अल
		am	अम
		pa	पा
		po	पो
		par	पार
		kar	कार





VOCABULARY

son

daughter in-law

Moses

LORD

blood

males

instead

all

first-born

cattle

children

skins

tabernacle

of gold.

with

子  
媳  
摩西  
主  
血  
男  
代  
全  
长子  
牛  
子  
皮  
金  
幕  
金  
幕









CONJUNCTION

ADVERBS

女  
子  
之  
言  
也  
其  
言  
也  
。





To me	أنا	I	أنا
To you	أنت	You	أنت
To her	أنتِ	You (f.)	أنتِ
To us	نحن	He	هو
To you (pl)	أنتم	She	هي
To you (f.)	أنتمِ	We	نحن
To them	هم	You (p.)	أنتم
To them (f)	هن	You (p.f)	أنتمِ
		They	هم
		They (f.)	هن
This	هذا		
These	هؤلاء	They, them	هم
		They, them (f.)	هن



To be

ହୁଅ

I am

ଏହୁଅ

You are

ତୁହୁଅ

You are (f.)

ତୁହୁଅ

He is

ସେହୁଅ

She is

ସେହୁଅ

We are

ସେହୁଅ

You are (pl.)

ସେହୁଅ

You are (pl.f.)

ସେହୁଅ

They are

ସେହୁଅ

They are (pl.f)

ସେହୁଅ





DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN.

This

এই

This (f)

এই

These, those

এসে

PERSONAL PRONOUN.

He, it

সে

She, it

সে

They

সে

They (f)

সে

This is

এই

This is (f)

এই



### INTERROGATIVE PRONOUN

Who	who	کیا
What	what	کونسا
Which (m)	which	کونسا
Which (f)	which f	کونسی
Who, what (pl)		کونسا

### RELATIVE PRONOUNS

Who, which, what	جو
Mine	میرا
Yours (m & f)	تیرا
His	اس کا
Theirs	ان کا





Two dots placed over word signify plural

Male

رجل

Males

رجال

First-born

وليد

First-born (pl)

وليدان

Evil

شر

Evils

شرا

Levite

لوي

Levites

لويان

Judge

قاضي

Judges

قضاة

Pillar

عمود

Pillars

عمودان

Name

اسم

Names

اسماء



Donkey	كَبْشَا
Donkeys	كَبْشَا
Month	كَبْشَا
Months	كَبْشَا
Family	كَبْشَا
Families	كَبْشَا
Tabernacle (tent)	كَبْشَا
Tabernacles (tents)	كَبْشَا
Chief	كَبْشَا
Chiefs	كَبْشَا
Dream	كَبْشَا
Dreams	كَبْشَا
Number	كَبْشَا
Numbers	كَبْشَا



Word

كلمة

Words

كلمات

Man

رجل

Men

رجال

Book

كتاب

Books

كتب

Dead

موت

Dead (pl)

موتى

Memorial

تذكار

Memorials

تذكارات

Husband

زوج

Husbands

زوجين

Holy, Saint

قديس

Holy (pl), Saints

قديسين





Man

人

Of man

人之

To man

之人

From man

人之

By man

之人









IMPERATIVE

Write (m)

مکتوب

Write (f)

مکتوبه

Write (m. pl.)

مکتوبون

Write (m. pl.)

مکتوبون

Write (f. pl.)

مکتوبات

Write (f. pl.)

مکتوبات

FUTURE

He will write

يکتوب



Numerals

One

Two

Three

Four

Five

Six

Seven

Eight

Nine

Ten

Eleven

Twelve

Thirteen

Fourteen

𐤀

𐤁

𐤂

𐤃

𐤄

𐤅

𐤆

𐤇

𐤈

𐤉

𐤊

𐤋

𐤌

𐤍



Fifteen

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁

Sixteen

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁𐤀

Seventeen

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁𐤀𐤀

Eighteen

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁𐤀𐤀𐤀

Nineteen

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀

Twenty

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀

Thirty

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀

Forty

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀

Fifty

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀

Sixty

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀

Seventy

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀

Eighty

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀

Ninety

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀

One Hundred

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀

One Thousand

𐤀𐤁𐤅𐤃𐤁𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀𐤀





LESSON 1.

Pharaoh

פַּרְוֹהַ

dream

חֲלוֹם

and said

וַיֹּאמֶר

and interpreter

וַיִּתְּבַרְןָהוּא

have heard

וַיִּשְׁמָעוּ

and I

וְאֲנִי

you

וְאַתָּה

none that can

לֹא יֵשֵׁב

וַיֹּאמֶר  
 חֲלוֹם וַיִּתְּבַרְןָהוּא  
 וַיִּשְׁמָעוּ וְאֲנִי  
 וְאַתָּה לֹא יֵשֵׁב  
 וְאַתָּה לֹא יֵשֵׁב  
 וְאַתָּה לֹא יֵשֵׁב



15 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it; and I have heard concerning you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.

## LESSON 2.

Joseph

and he answered

standing

I

bank

on

river

and behold

Joseph  
and he answered  
standing  
I  
bank  
on  
river  
and behold





16. And Joseph answered and said  
 to Pharaoh, Do you think, perhaps,  
 that without God I am able to give  
 Pharaoh an answer that everything  
 will be well?  
 17. Then Pharaoh said to Joseph.  
 In my dream I was standing on the  
 bank of the river;  
 18. And, behold, there came up out  
 of the river seven fat and beautiful  
 cows;



### LESSON 3.

and beautiful

וְיָפִים

in a meadow

בְּרִמְזֵי

cows

בְּרִמְזֵי

seven

שֶׁבַע

after them

אַחֲרֵיהֶם

good

טוֹב

וְיָפִים בְּרִמְזֵי שֶׁבַע  
 בְּרִמְזֵי שֶׁבַע אַחֲרֵיהֶם  
 בְּרִמְזֵי שֶׁבַע אַחֲרֵיהֶם  
 בְּרִמְזֵי שֶׁבַע אַחֲרֵיהֶם  
 בְּרִמְזֵי שֶׁבַע אַחֲרֵיהֶם  
 בְּרִמְזֵי שֶׁבַע אַחֲרֵיהֶם  
 בְּרִמְזֵי שֶׁבַע אַחֲרֵיהֶם  
 בְּרִמְזֵי שֶׁבַע אַחֲרֵיהֶם



וְהֵן  
 וְהֵן  
 וְהֵן

and they fed in a meadow;  
 19 And, behold, seven other cows  
 came up after them, poor and ill-  
 favored and lean. I had never seen  
 such ill-favored cows in all the land  
 of Egypt.

#### LESSON 4.

and ill-favored

fat

such

וְהֵן  
 וְהֵן  
 וְהֵן





ill-favored

וה

seven

שבע

ears of grain

אזניים

and again.

וה

והחלבו את האזניים  
 שהיו עליהם  
 מן העומר  
 והחלבו את האזניים  
 שהיו עליהם  
 מן העומר  
 והחלבו את האזניים  
 שהיו עליהם  
 מן העומר  
 והחלבו את האזניים  
 שהיו עליהם  
 מן העומר

20 And the lean and ill-favored  
 cows ate up the first seven fat cows;  
 21 And when they had eaten them  
 up, it could not be known that they  
 had eaten them; for they were still  
 ill-favored, as at the beginning. Then  
 I awoke.



22 And again, I saw in my dream,  
and, behold, seven ears of grain grow-  
ing on one stalk, full and good;

### LESSON 5.

thin

by wind

after them

growing

and devoured

by the east wind

to the magicians

to me.

مذبح  
لوقم  
مذبح  
مذبح  
مذبح  
مذبح  
مذبح  
مذبح

مذبح  
مذبح



וְהָיוּ אֵינִים מְרֵיבִים מִמֶּנּוּ  
 לֹדֵיבִים בְּיָמֵי  
 עַם כְּהֵנָּה וְזֵנָה. הַבָּלָא  
 עֲתִילָה מְרֵיבִים לְעַל  
 עֲתִילָה מְרֵיבִים מְרֵיבִים  
 לְעַל עֲתִילָה מְרֵיבִים  
 לְעַל

23 And, behold, seven other ears, thin and blasted by the east wind, sprang up after them;

24 And the thin ears devoured the seven good ears; and I told this to the magicians; but there was no one who could interpret these dreams to me.





LESSON 6.

and said

اور کہا

one

ایک

is

ہے

God

خدا کا

what

کچھ

to do

کرنے

has shown

دیکھا

years

سالوں

that came up

ظہور

they are

ہیں

کچھ سالوں  
اور وہ سالوں  
میں ظہور کیا  
ہوئے ہیں



וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל פַּרְעֹה  
הַדְּמֵהוּ אֶת פַּרְעֹה  
וְאֶת אֶתְנֵן לְפָנָיו  
וְאֶת אֶתְנֵן לְפָנָיו  
וְאֶת אֶתְנֵן לְפָנָיו  
וְאֶת אֶתְנֵן לְפָנָיו  
וְאֶת אֶתְנֵן לְפָנָיו  
וְאֶת אֶתְנֵן לְפָנָיו

25 ¶And Joseph said to Pharaoh,  
The dream of Pharaoh is one; God  
has shown Pharaoh what he is about  
to do.

26 The seven good cows are seven  
years; and the seven good ears are  
seven years; the dream is one.

27 And the seven lean and ill-  
favored cows that came up after them  
are seven years;



LESSON 7.

famine.

מַחְסוֹר

It is the

הַזֶּה

thing

הַזֶּה

are coming

בָּאִים

plenty

רַב

great

גָּדוֹל

now

עַתָּה

throughout

כָּל

land

אֶרֶץ

of Egypt

מִצְרַיִם

מִצְרַיִם  
בָּאִים  
רַב גָּדוֹל עַתָּה





וְהָיָה אֲזַי  
וְהָיָה אֲזַי  
וְהָיָה אֲזַי  
וְהָיָה אֲזַי  
וְהָיָה אֲזַי  
וְהָיָה אֲזַי  
וְהָיָה אֲזַי  
וְהָיָה אֲזַי

and the seven thin ears blasted by the east wind shall be seven years of famine.

28 It is the thing which I told Pharaoh; what God is about to do he has shown to Pharaoh.

29 Behold, there are coming seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt;

30 And there shall arise after them seven years of famine;



LESSON 8.

of famine

הַצָּמָה

and shall be forgotten

וְנִשְׁכַּח

after them

אַחֲרֵיהֶם

which was

הַזֶּה

shall consume

וְאָכַל

not

לֹא

re-membered (known)

וְלֹא

repeated

וְשָׁבַר

to Pharaoh

לְפָאֵרֹה

twice

שְׁנַיִם

וְהַצָּמָה הַזֶּה  
וְנִשְׁכַּח אַחֲרֵיהֶם  
וְאָכַל וְלֹא  
וְשָׁבַר לְפָאֵרֹה שְׁנַיִם



וְכֹל הַשָּׂבָע בְּאֶרֶץ  
 מִצְרָיִם יִשְׁכַּח  
 וְהָרָעָב יִשְׁכַּח אֶת  
 הָאֶרֶץ כִּי יִשְׁכַּח  
 אֶת הַשָּׂבָע וְהָרָעָב  
 יִשְׁכַּח אֶת הָאֶרֶץ  
 כִּי יִשְׁכַּח אֶת הַשָּׂבָע  
 וְהָרָעָב יִשְׁכַּח אֶת  
 הָאֶרֶץ

and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land;

31 And the plenty shall not be remembered in the land because of the famine which shall follow; for it shall be very severe.

32 And as for that the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is already prepared by God, and God will hasten to bring it to pass.





LESSON 9.

God

אלהים

now:

עכשיו

wise man

חכם

overseer

שומר

discreet

מזהיר

Pharaoh

פרעה

and appoint him

ולמנותו

officers

תלמידי

אלהים למבנות.  
מעתה ישיב פרעה  
לחכם שומר  
מזהיר, ולמנותו  
ל אהרן הכהן.



הַלֵּלְךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
תִּלְוֶךָ לֹא אֶחָד  
אֶתְּמַדְּךָ מִלְּפָנֶיךָ  
כִּי אֶחָד יִשְׁמַדְּךָ  
עֲתִידָהְךָ מִלְּפָנֶיךָ  
בְּהַלֵּלְךָ בְּהַלְלֵךָ  
לְבָרְכְךָ מִלְּפָנֶיךָ

33 Now therefore let Pharaoh find a discreet and wise man, and appoint him an overseer over the land of Egypt.

34 Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land of Egypt to take the fifth part of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plenteous years.

35 And let them gather all the wheat of these good years that are coming,





LESSON 10.

grain

כִּינֹר

and store up

מִשְׁבֵּט

authority ( hand )

כַּף

under

תַּחַת

in the towns

בְּעָרֵינוּ

and let be

וְהָיָה

keep

לְפָנֶיךָ

for the land

לְפָנֶיךָ

kept

לְפָנֶיךָ

כִּינֹר מִשְׁבֵּט  
תַּחַת כַּף  
בְּעָרֵינוּ כִּינֹר  
כִּינֹר וְהָיָה



וְיִשְׁמְרוּ אֶת הַחֵטְא  
תַּחֲתֵי אֲוֶרְתֵי הָעָרִים  
כְּאֲזֵנֵי הַמִּצְוֹת  
אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֱלֹהִים

and store up the grain under  
the authority of Pharaoh, and let  
them keep the grain in the towns.

36 And let the grain be kept for the  
land against the seven years of famine  
which shall come in the land of  
Egypt; so that the land may not  
perish through the famine.







